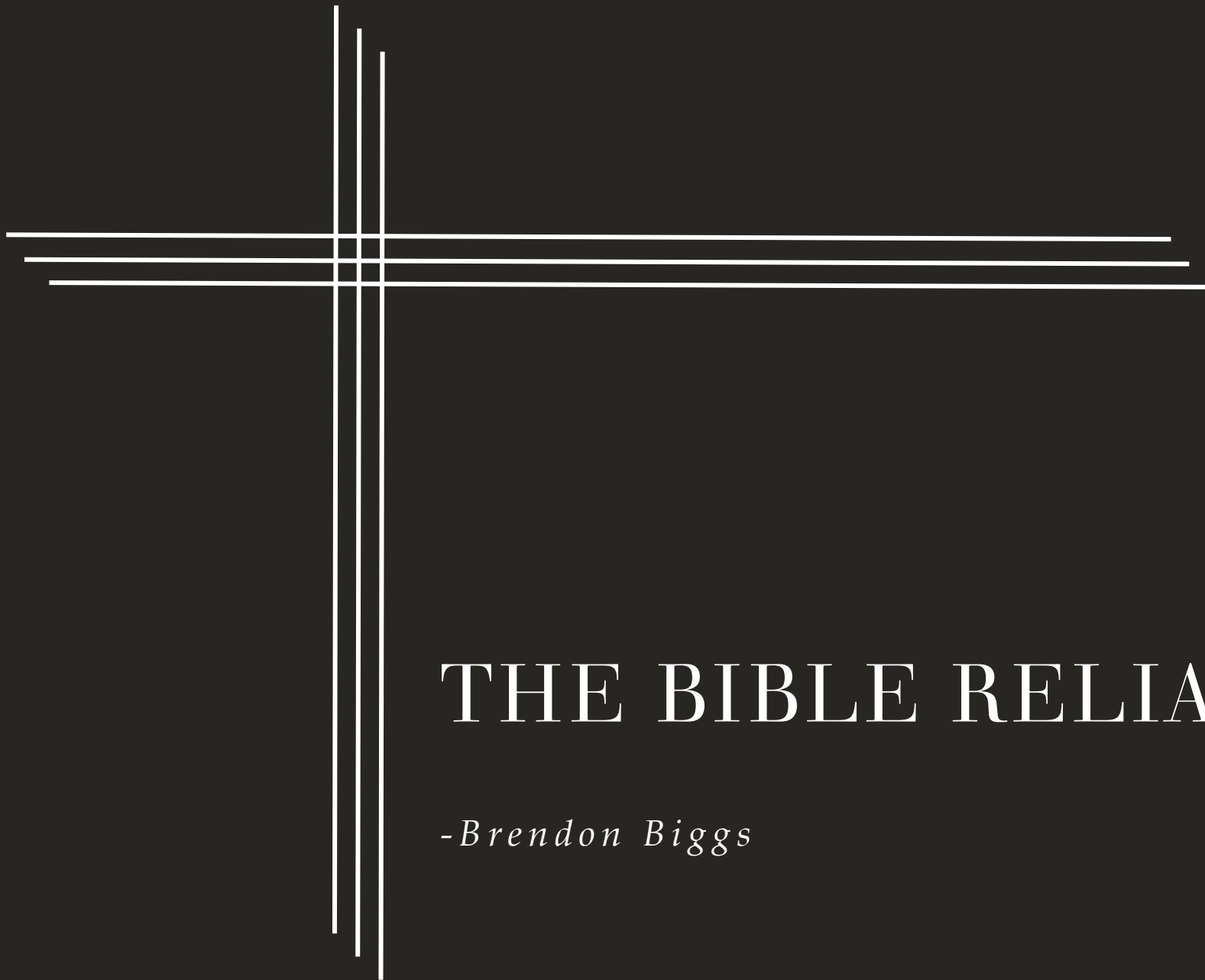




THE BIBLE RELIABILITY

-Brendon Biggs

There are many holy books in the world.

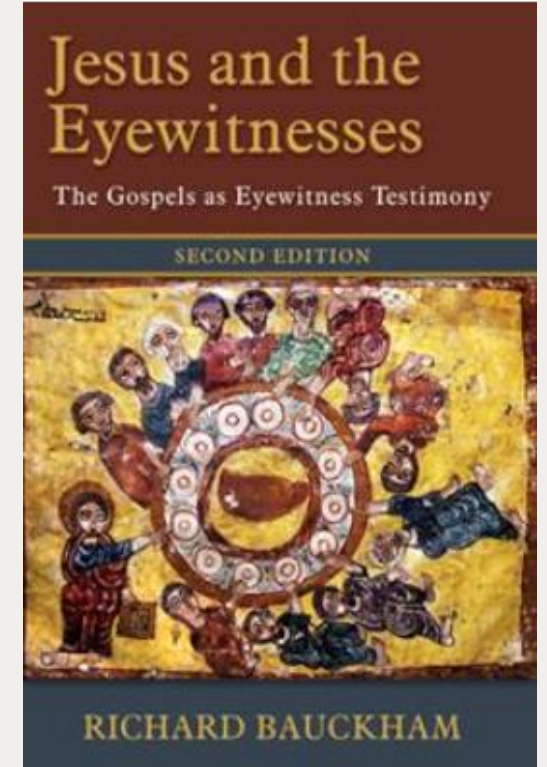
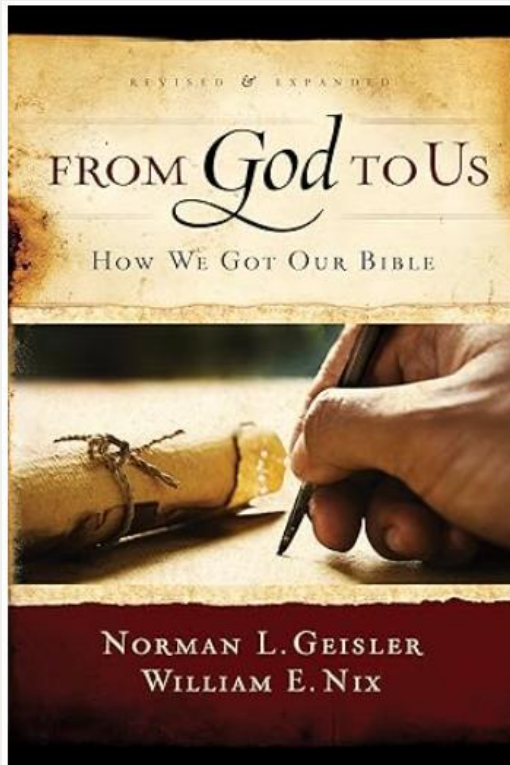
The Quran, the Hindu Vedas, the Book of Mormon, writings of Buddha and Confucius, Greek mythology, etc.

Some are claimed to be based on a single revelation from God to a person.

Some do not include real places and people in history or they are presented as stories which may or may not be real.

Most have internal inconsistencies, errors, or have been shown to be false.

Resources



Some Slides from Crossexamined.org and Cold Case Christianity-J. Warner Wallace and lectures at Veritas

The Bible

The Bible was written:

- over a 1500 year span (from 1400 B.C to A.D. 100)
- over 40 generations
- over 40 authors from many walks of life (i.e. - kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars)
- in different places (i.e. - wilderness, dungeon, palaces)
- at different times (i.e. - war, peace)
- in different moods (i.e. - heights of joy, depths of despair)
- on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe)
- in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)

-all pointing to one truth. Its amazing how applicable it is to us today.

Who Wrote the Bible?

Hebrew 1:1-2

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many times and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

1. Inspiration—From the mouth of God
2. Canonization—Collected by the people of God
3. Transmission—Copied by scribes of God
4. Translations—Translated by the servants of God

Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (i.e., it is “**God-breathed**” or breathed out by God).

2 Peter 1:20-21: “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy **never came by the will of man**, but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit.**”

“Thus said the LORD” or the like occurs approximately 1500 times in the Old Testament.

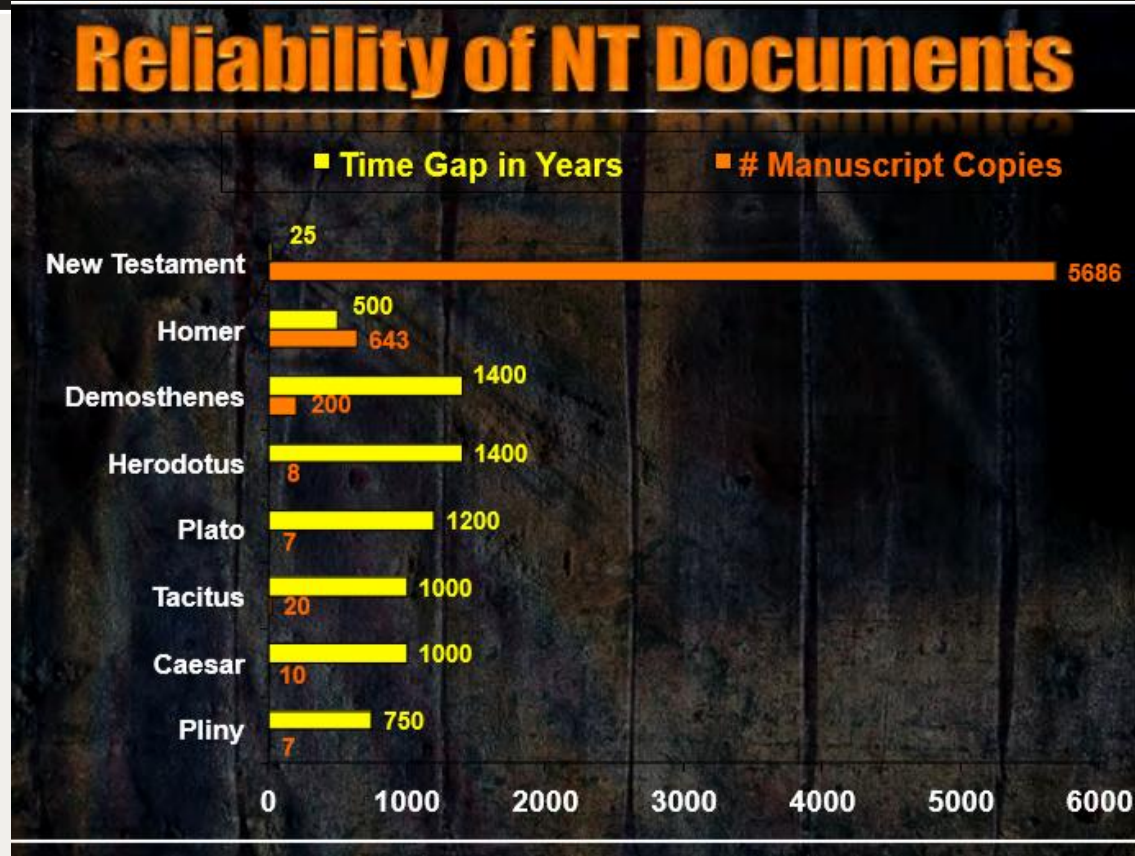
- A. Was it written by a prophet of God? (Heb. 1:1-2; 2Pet.1:20-21; Mt. 5:17-18; Lk. 24:27)
- B. Was he confirmed by an act of God? (Ex. 4:1-9; Jn. 3:2; Heb. 2:4; 2 Cor. 12:12)
- C. Did it tell the truth about God? (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:21-22; Acts 17:11; 1 Jn. 4:1-6)
- D. Did it have the power of God? (Isa. 55:11; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16-17; 2 Tim. 3:17)
- E. Was it received by the people of God? (Deut. 31:26; 1 Thes. 2:15)



the Old testament:

How do we know we have
an accurate copy of the original New Testament?

1. Earlier Manuscripts
2. More Manuscripts
3. More accurately copied
4. More abundantly supported Manuscripts



- We have more manuscripts than other ancient classical writers.
- The interval between the original authorship and the date of the earliest New Testament copies is extremely short.

What Books should be in the Bible?

Confirmation of authorship and authority

- 25 of 27 books quoted by AD110
- Gospels and Acts cited during lives of apostles
- Quoted as authoritative and unique
- Collected early in one volume
- Publicly read and expounded
- Commentaries written on them
- Opponents admitted Gospels were written by the disciples
- No other later writings were treated this way

The authors of the four Gospels were either eyewitnesses of Jesus life themselves or were closely associated with eyewitnesses.

Matthew – confirmed by early church leaders. Wrote to a Jewish audience.

Mark is John Mark (Acts 12:12; 13:13; 15:36-41) and was the cousin of Barnabus and associate of Paul. He wrote for Peter.

Luke- Companion of Paul. Interviewed the apostles and other eyewitnesses (Luke 1).

John- Disciple and had detailed knowledge of first century Jewish culture and customs.

Extra-Biblical Testimony

Basic New Testament storyline confirmed by non-Christian Sources

- Ten ancient non-Christian sources including:

- Historians: Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Thallus, Phlegon

- Government officials: Pliny the Younger, Emperor Trajan, Emperor Hadrian

- Other sources including the Jewish Talmud and Greek writer Lucian

Compiling their references, we get a story consistent with the New Testament...

Extra-Biblical Testimony

Basic New Testament storyline confirmed by non-Christian Sources

1. Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar
2. He lived a virtuous life
3. He was a wonder worker
4. He had a brother named James
5. He was acclaimed to be the Messiah
6. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate
7. An eclipse on the eve of Passover
8. His disciples believed He rose from the dead
9. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome
10. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshipped Jesus as God.

This is what the New Testament Says!

In addition to thousands of manuscripts we have in our possession that we can use to compare and contrast, the early Church fathers quote the New Testament writings approximately 19,000 times. We can compare these quotes, and they also match the manuscript copies.

Number of Manuscript Copies

Greek: 5,700

Latin: 10,000+

Ethiopic 2,000+

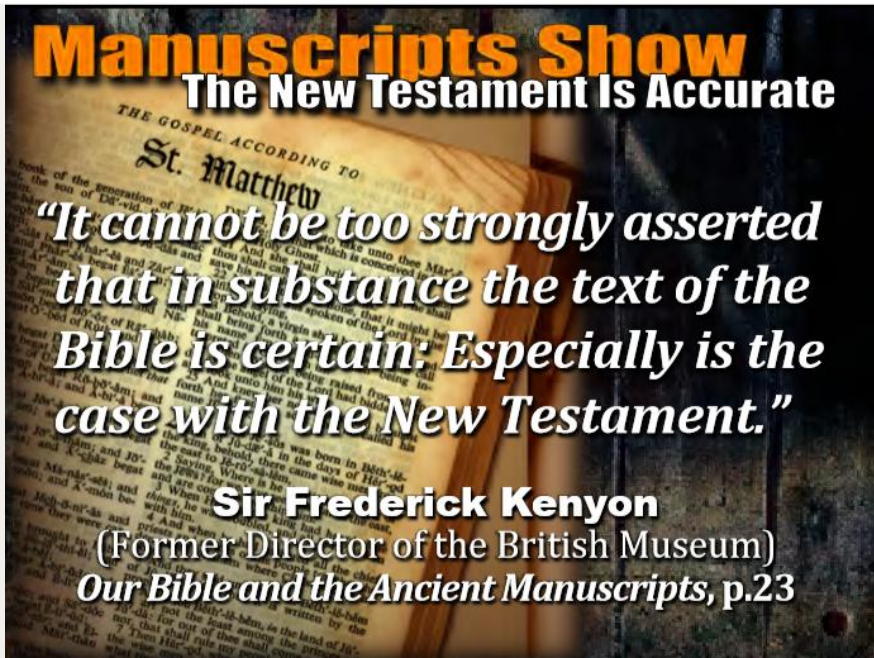
Slavic 4,000+

Armenian 2,500+

Others 500+

Total 25,000

Outline



Manuscript show the New Testament is accurate

“It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is certain: Especially is the case with the New Testament”

-Sir Frederick Kenyon (Former Director for the British Museum)



John Ryland's Library, England: P52 from John
ch. 18: oldest existing NT Manuscript. ca.
125AD. 40 yrs from original.

John Ryland's Library, England: P52 from John chapter 18:
Oldest existing New Testament manuscript dated around 125AD
Which is approximately 40 years from the original

-all 3 persons

Surviving Collections

Complete or nearly complete surviving collections

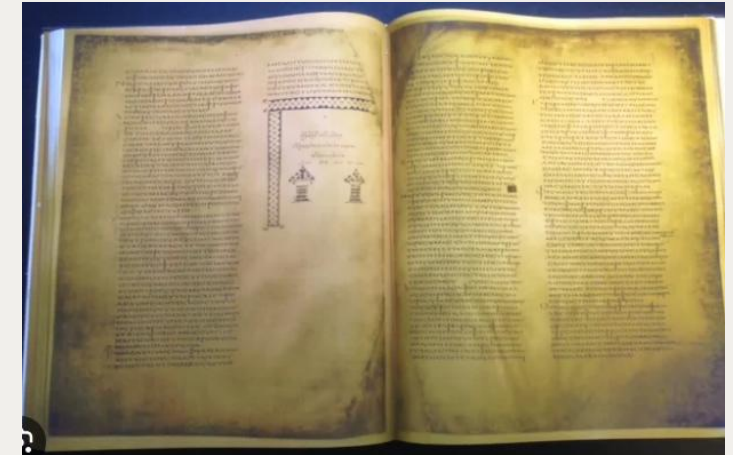
4th century Sinaiticus



4th century Vaticanus



5th century Alexandrian



You can read these online! <https://archive.org/details/CodexAlexandrinus/Codex-Vaticanus-NT/mode/2up>

Eyewitness Testimony

The Gospels are presented as eyewitness Testimony.

Luke 3:1-2

“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.”

That verse provides:

1. An exact date
2. All eight people are known from history
3. All were known to live at this exact time

2. EYE WITNESS TESTIMONY numerous confirmed eyewitness details

1. Acts -- 84 historically-confirmed eyewitness details.



Eyewitness testimony – numerous confirmed eyewitness details

1. Book of Acts has 84 historically confirmed eyewitness details

2. EYE WITNESS TESTIMONY

numerous confirmed eyewitness details

- 1. Acts -- 84 historically-confirmed eyewitness details.**
- 2. Luke includes several others in his Gospel.**
- 3. John-- 59 historically-confirmed or historically probable eyewitness details.**
- 4. New Testament Documents cite more than 30 people confirmed by secular sources or archaeology.**

How God would come as a God-man.

2. Luke includes several others in his Gospel
3. John has 59 historically confirmed or historically probable eyewitness details
4. New Testament documents cite more than 30 people confirmed by secular sources or archeology

Percent of Accuracy of the New Testament

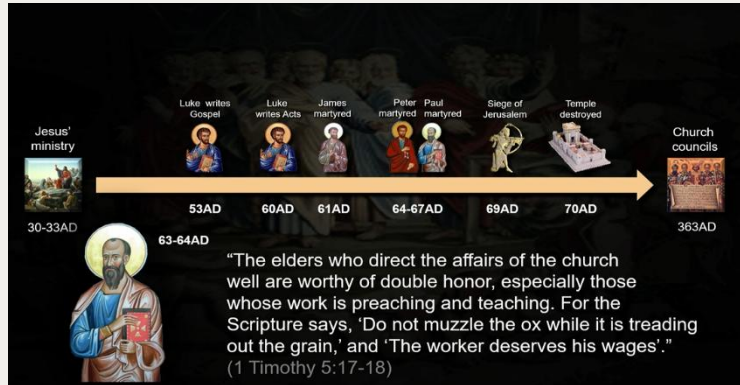
Westcott and Hort estimated that only about one-sixtieth rise above “trivialities” and can be called “substantial variations.” It is 98.33 percent pure.

Ezra Abbott said about 9/20 (95 percent) of the readings are “various” rather than “rival” readings, and about 9/20 (95 percent) of the rest make no appreciable difference in the sense of the passage. Thus, the text is 99.75 percent pure.

A.T. Robertson said the real concern is with about a “thousandth part of the entire text.” So, the reconstructed text of the New Testament 99.9 percent free from real concern.

B. Philip Schaff estimated that of the 150,000 variations known, only 400 affected the sense; and of those only 50 were of real significance; and of these not one affected “an article of faith....”

The apostles writings were received and treated as Scripture



ref Luke10:7 –...that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages...

Duet 25:4 –“You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.”

1 Timothy 5:17-18
This verse says “for the scripture says...”
and it quotes Luke 10:7 and Deuteronomy 25:4
This shows the authors considered both testaments as scripture
as equal scripture

The Apostle's writings were received and treated as Scripture

2 Pet. 3:16 -..." as also in all *his [Paul's]* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction"

1 Cor. 14:37 - If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

1 Thess. 2:13 - For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Prophecies

The Bible has hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled to demonstrate it is a miraculous book from God

The prophecies include the Book of Daniel chapter 9 which was written between 605BC to 530BC.

Daniel chapter 9 says that the Messiah would come before the Jerusalem temple was destroyed

Errors in the Bible?

Do we have the original Bible?

Has the Bible been corrupted?

Many groups will claim this, but this is incorrect. Let us look at some definitions of words they use such as “Corruption” “Errors” and “Variants”

Autograph vs Original Message

A person says “the class will begin at 7 o’clock in the evening”

That is an original message. It is an oral message.

Someone later writes that message down. The first time it is written is called an autograph. In our example, the autograph came after the oral message but is still the original message. No wording has changed.

Autograph vs Original Message

People then make copies of the autograph. If the copies are accurate, the copies are still the original message.

If a person misspells a word, you can identify the misspelled word by looking at copies with no misspelled words. The copy with the misspelled word is still the original message because you have identified the misspelled word.

Autograph vs Original Message

If you find a copy with an added words:

“The class will begin at 7 o’clock in the evening so bring your books”

You can identify the added words by looking at earlier copies with no added words. The copy with the added words that have been identified and marked, is still the original message because you have identified the additions.

Autograph vs Original Message

If you find a copy with revised words:

“At 7 o’clock, the class will begin”

This is slightly different than the original message but that copy preserves the original intent, the original message is preserved.

Autograph vs Original Message

By studying the thousands of manuscripts of the Bible we can be confident we have the original message even when we see some copies with misspelled words or word additions.

Corruption- many added passages that affect the original meaning- the Bible does not have these.

Variant – small word changes that do not affect meaning. Example: “The Lord” vs “The Lord Jesus” or “The Lord Jesus Christ”

Error – Usually a misspelled word. These can be identified and corrected.

Autograph vs Original Message

The Unique Claims of the Qur'an

- Surah 85:21-22 “*This is a Glorious Qur'an, Inscribed in the [preserved](#) Tablet”*
- Surah 10:15 “*Bring us a Qur'an other than this or change it. Say, it is [not](#) for me to [change it](#) on my own accord”*
- Surah 18:27 “*And recite what has been revealed to you of the Book of your Lord. [None can change His Words](#)”*
- Surah 15:9 “*Verily, We, it is We who have sent down the Qur'an and surely [We will guard it](#)”*

Autograph vs Original Message

Two Different Genres of Scripture

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

- 1) The Bible** is written by man, though inspired by God, so the original manuscripts were perfect. But since they were written on Papyrus, copies had to be made, which would permit for the possibility of accretions, deletions, and “copyist errors” over time. Yet, despite these possibilities, we can trust 99.9% of what has been retained.
- 2) The Qur'an**, however, is considered eternal; therefore, it was not written by man. Thus, it cannot have accretions, nor deletions and certainly no internal errors.

Conclusion: Consequently, the Qur'an must be held to a much higher standard than the Bible internally, because Christians don't make the same claims that Muslims make for their Qur'an. Thus, we don't have the same “Burden of Proof.”

Common Apologetic Questions

Muslim: How do we know the authors of the Gospels wrote the Gospels?

There are no manuscripts ever found that do not have the authors name attached. Some people think they were added later, but we have no evidence they were. All of them were written, received and acted upon by the community of believers in the first century in the area the events occurred as being written by the authors assigned to them.

Free online book: <https://ia801606.us.archive.org/20/items/brant-pitre-the-case-for-jesus-the-biblical-and-historical-evidence-for-christ/Brant%20Pitre%20-%20The%20Case%20for%20Jesus%20-%20The%20Biblical%20and%20Historical%20Evidence%20for%20Christ.pdf>

Common Apologetic Questions

Muslim: Why are there different versions of the Bible?

There are no “versions” of the Bible that affect the meaning. There are translations into different languages. Some translations are word for word and others thought for thought. We can always check the translation for accuracy by comparing to the thousands of Greek manuscripts.

Sample Conversations For Pakistan Muslims

Muslim: The Bible has been corrupted

Christian: Could you help me understand Surah 2:136; 29:46; 4:136; 10:94; 5:47-48; 5:69 2:91; 2:3; 2:41; 4:47? They seem to me to be saying the Bible is a revelation that can be trusted?

Muslim: We don't have that version anymore?

Christian: Doesn't Sura 6:34 say that "No one can change word of God? Wouldn't that mean God protected it?

Muslim: He protected it by giving us the Qur'an

Christian: But the way I read verses like Surah 5:43-48 is they had the Scriptures in their hands and could judge by them.

Muslim: It was lost after them

Christian: Can I show you manuscripts that were earlier and today's Bible to show you it hasn't been changed? Would that change your mind?

Sample Conversations For Pakistan Muslims

Muslim: Show me one verse in the Bible where Jesus says, “I am God; worship me.”

Christian: “Great. If you want me to use the Bible, do you believe the Bible is inspired?”

Muslim: No, it is corrupt. This is not the true Bible.

Christian: But you want me to use it to help you understand where he said that?

Muslim: No. I already know the answer. I want to prove to you that Jesus never said he was God, but you Christians made it up when you corrupted Christianity.

Christian: How do you know the answer? Did you read the Bible?

Muslim: No. But we all know it is corrupt. We talk about this all the time in the mosque, and it is a proven fact.

Christian: Ok lets read the Bible. *

Polemic Questions For Pakistan Muslims

Muslim: There are many versions of the Bible. You can't know what it said.

Christian: Let's define what you mean by version. Do you mean translations?

Muslim: So many differences between the KJV, NASB, Catholic, etc.

Christian: We have 5800 copies of Greek we can look at to know if they are a good translation, word for word or thought for thought. This is how all works are translated. We only have one version (Greek) but it is translated into other languages so people around the world can read it.

Muslim: Our Qur'an is the same as the original revelation

Christian: Why did Egypt have a canonized standard in 1924?

Polemic Questions For Pakistan Muslims

Muslim: The pronunciation was preserved by mass-chains of oral transmission (Mutawatir) with 1000's of people who memorized the recitation perfectly, which is historically more reliable than a single isolated scribe. vocalization differences (like 'color' vs 'colour' or different verb scales) that were taught by the Prophet himself to accommodate different dialects. They exist within the same skeletal text.

Christian: Do you think the New testament authors remembered everything Jesus said and accurately wrote it down within their lifetime and lifetime of eyewitnesses?

Muslim: No, they corrupted the text and we don't know who wrote the New testament.

Christian: Do you know they have never found a Gospel without the names attached and all the next generation Fathers affirmed who wrote them in their writings?

Muslim: We have an unbroken chain of transmitters in our traditions

Christian: Do approved versions like Warsh and Hafs match the 1924 standard? Why were some school's readings banned?

Muslim: These are minor differences and we went with the most accurate

Christian: Your Qur'an makes some bold claims that it has never been changed, and it is guarded, why were there so many different schools and readings with all these dialectical differences? With the lack of vowels and diacritical markings in the 600s, would it have been better to use Greek like prior revelations?

Muslim: Jesus and the New Testament authors only spoke Aramaic. Who knows who made the Greek copies

Christian: Can you think of any reasons why they used the common Greek language in that area and time?

Muslim: There was no reason

Christian: If you found differences in the various Qur'ans would that make any difference with you?

Note: Always use the words "Your prophet" and do not say "according to the Qur'an" because that sounds like we think it is legitimate.

Polemic Questions For Pakistan Muslims

Do you have a complete 114 Surah Quran dated to the 600s? What are your earliest fragments and earliest complete copy?

What kind of paper were they written on? Have you seen the dead sea scrolls dated 200 years BC or the complete Bible dated to the 300 AD?

Summary

The Bible uses: Real names, places, events backed up with archeology

Thousands of manuscripts that can demonstrate the writings were copied and preserved accurately.

Tens of thousands of early church father quotes to further show accuracy

Fulfilled prophecies

Transformational power to change the Roman world from pagan to Christianity without use of force

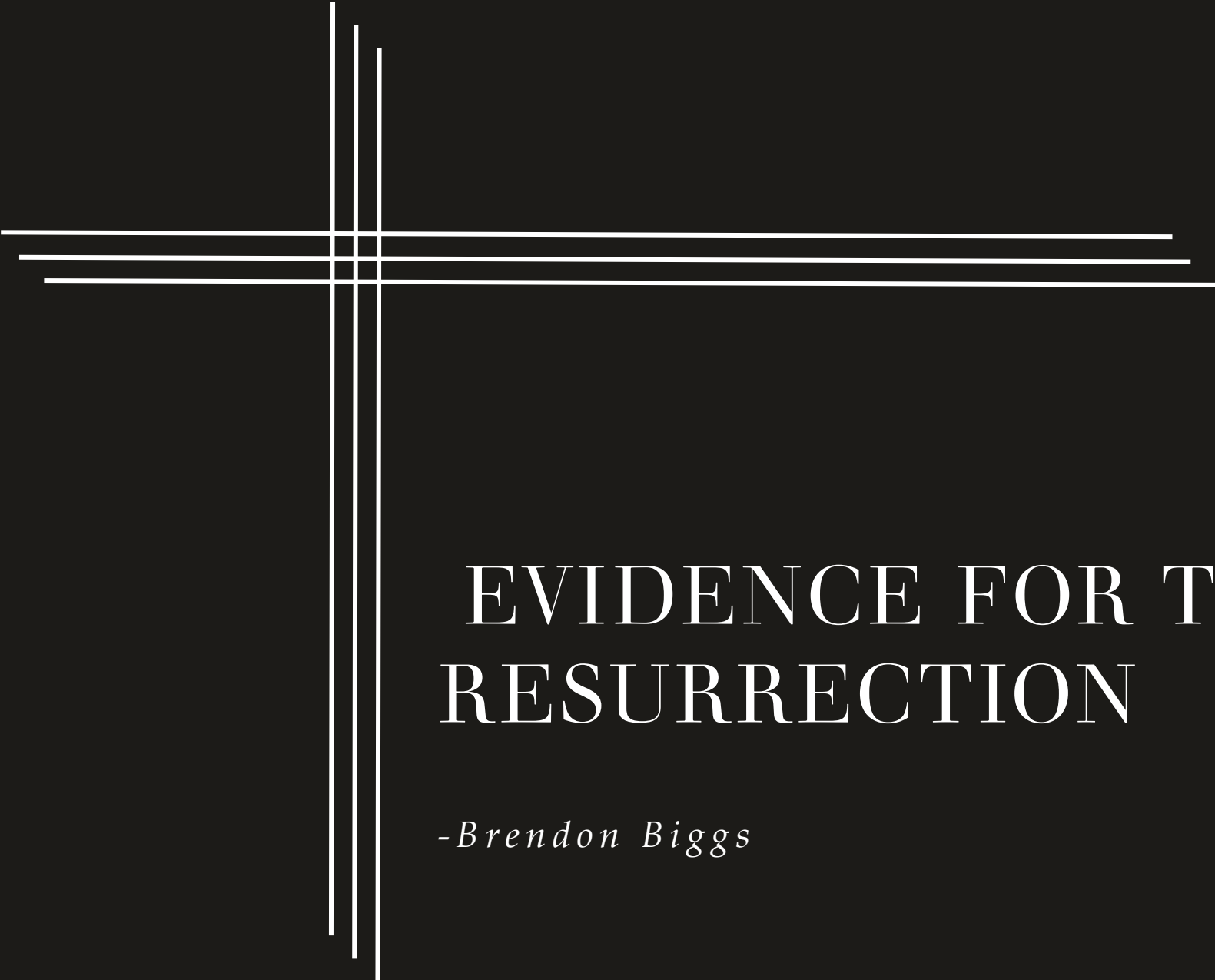
Summary

Writers were eyewitnesses, or knew the eyewitnesses, and wrote their accounts very close to the actual events

The written accounts were already being taught by oral preaching before they were written down

We have no writings refuting what the authors presented

The authors died for their beliefs and did not gain power or wealth



EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION

-Brendon Biggs

Evidence for the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15: 3—8

For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brothers *and sisters* at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also

Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

Christianity is based on the Resurrection

Thomas wanted to touch Jesus hands and place his fingers in the holes on Jesus before he would believe. Jesus spoke to Thomas after the resurrection and said: “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who *did not* see, and yet believed” (John 20:29).

Why did Jesus say this to Thomas?

In the next verse, John writes “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written *so that you may believe* that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31)

In Mark 16:14, Mark writes a similar account “Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

The answer is that Thomas’s demand that he first poke his fingers in Jesus’ wounds before believing was asking to much. His friends’ report should have been adequate evidence

While we’re here on earth, Paul says, we don’t see Jesus. Some people want to see the evidence and believe, and there are those who *read* the evidence and believe.” Why? Because what they *read* is a reliable record of what others actually *saw*.

12 commonly accepted facts (among all scholars) surrounding the event:

- 1) Jesus died by crucifixion,
- 2) Jesus was buried,
- 3) Disciples doubted and were despaired after Jesus died but later were bold and brave,
- 4) The tomb in which Jesus was buried was discovered empty a few days later,
- 5) Disciples had experiences that they believed to be actual appearances of the risen Christ,
- 6) Disciples were transformed and willing to die for the truth,
- 7) Gospel message was the center of preaching in the early church,
- 8) Gospel proclaimed in Jerusalem where Jesus died,
- 9) Church was established by these disciples,
- 10) Day of worship was changed to Sunday, the same day Jesus was reported risen,
- 11) Skeptical James (Jesus' brother) was converted when he believed he saw the risen Christ, and
- 12) Paul, a persecutor of the church, was converted when he believed he saw the risen Christ.

First – Jesus died by crucifixion. The Gospels writers provide evidence of this as well as first century historian Josephus.

Pagan and Jewish writers report that Christians believed Jesus rose from the dead.

In AD 116 The Roman historian and senator Tacitus referred to Jesus' execution by Pontius Pilate

“Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus”

Second, Jesus appeared to eyewitnesses on at least 12 different occasions, with Paul declaring some 500 witnesses saw the risen Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-8).

These appearances resulted in witnesses seeing, hearing, and/or touching his physical body. The commonly understood and well-practiced legal approach to establishing fact draws upon the testimony of numerous witnesses of any given event. Even the Scripture says, “On the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed” (Deut. 19:15). The New Testament has 9 different authors who wrote 27 books that either explicitly or implicitly affirm the resurrection.

Evidence –empty tomb

Third, the best explanation for the empty tomb that was guarded and sealed, is that Christ rose. The Romans or Jews could have destroyed Christianity by simply producing the body. They never found a body.

Fourth, the apostles died for what they believed to be the resurrected Christ. They were afraid when Jesus died but after he rose, the Disciples were brave and stood up against the Romans and Jewish leadership and were willing to die. Paul was a Jewish leader who was hostile to Christians but after seeing the risen Jesus, wrote most of the New Testament and was one of the most important figures in the History of the Christian faith.

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

The Jews had interest in where Jesus was buried so someone would have known the correct tomb and could have produced the body.

Jesus was buried by Joseph of Arimathea in a tomb

1. Jesus's burial was attested in 1 Cor. 15-3-5 which is very old
2. Jesus's burial was attested to in Mark from early sources
3. Joseph of Arimathea was part of the Jewish court
so it was unlikely this would be a Christian invention
4. The account was not developed over time
5. No other competing story exists

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

On multiple occasions and under various circumstances, different individuals and groups of people experienced appearances of Jesus alive from the dead.

A list is given in 1 Corinthians which included Peter, the twelve disciples, the 500 and James the brother of Jesus (who did not think Jesus was the Messiah during Jesus's lifetime). The appearances in the Gospels provide independent attestations of these appearances from different people groups at different times and places.

1 Corinthians 15: 3-8 -500 witnesses.

No one has come forward in 1900 years to refute the eyewitness claims. Jews could not refute it. Romans did not refute it. Some people will claim it did not happen but they have never shown evidence it did not happen. The easiest evidence is to produce the body. Jews and Romans could not produce the body. The only attempt to refute the claim was recorded in the Bible in Matt 28:13- the disciples stole the bible. This claim failed because the tomb was guarded .

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

1 Corinthians 15, Paul summarizes the gospel message and reinforces the idea that this message is the same one that was delivered to him by the apostles. In his Letter to the Galatians (written in the mid-50's) Paul describes his interaction with these apostles (Peter and James) and says that the meeting occurred at least 14 years prior to the writing of the letter (Galatians 1:18, cf. 2:1). This means that Paul saw the risen Christ and learned about the gospel accounts from the eyewitnesses (Peter and James) within 5 years of the Crucifixion. This is why Paul was able to tell the Corinthians (in his letter written 53-57AD) that there were still many living eyewitnesses who could confirm the Resurrection accounts.

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

Mark uses phrases such as “He has risen; He is not here;...(16:6)” and “He is going ahead of you into Galilee there you will see him, just as he told you(16:7)” this implies an empty tomb and physical resurrection

Mark 14 – Mark again uses the phrase “who had seen Him after He had risen.”

If Jesus claimed he would rise and did not, why follow him? Jesus also predicted he would rise on the 3rd day so this prophecy was known. The chief priests captured the disciples and beat them and told them not to speak of the resurrection.

No one would guard the tomb if they thought the resurrection meant spiritual. You cannot guard against a spiritual appearance

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

The women touched him (Matt. 28:9) as well as Thomas (John 20:24-28) and the disciples were accused of stealing the body (Matt. 28:13). The empty tomb implies bodily resurrection (Mark 16:6, Luke 24:5-6).

Paul saw Jesus but his appearance event was different. Paul was blinded by a great light (Acts 9:4-5; 22:7-8; 26:14-15) and Paul's companions saw a light and fell to the ground (Acts 26:13-14). They also hear sounds of the voice (Acts 9:7) and were startled.

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

Luke was not aware any discrepancy between Jesus' bodily appearances to the Disciples (Luke 24) and later appearances to Paul. Luke made no effort to change one to fit the other because there was no need for it.

Paul affirms the others saw the risen Jesus so if we accept Paul as an eye-witness, we can affirm the others because Paul did.

Summary –empty tomb –internal evidence

1. The account was part of very old source material used by Mark
2. Paul refers to the old information in 1 Corinthians
3. The story is simple and lacks legendary development
4. The fact that women's testimony was worthless in the first century Palestine counts in favor of the women's role in discovering the empty tomb.
5. The earliest Jewish allegation that the disciples stole Jesus' body shows that the body was in fact missing from the tomb.

Summary –empty tomb –internal evidence

Response:

The original disciples believed that Jesus was risen from the dead despite them having every reason not to.

1. Their leader was dead. And Jews had no belief in dying and rising, Messiah.
2. According to Jewish law, Jesus' execution as a criminal showed him to be a heretic, a man literally under the curse of the law.
3. Jewish beliefs about the afterlife precluded anyone's rising from the dead before the general resurrection at the end of the world.

Sixth, the widespread, sudden, and dramatic change in the lives and religious practice of devoted Jews who kept the Mosaic Law for centuries. In other words, how do fervent religious Jews suddenly shift from Saturday to Sunday worship, and from abstaining from unclean foods to eating pork with gentiles?

What possibly could transform a group of disappointed and afraid disciples who were devastated at the crucifixion, in hiding for fear of death, and contemplating a rapid escape and/or abandonment of their calling, and return to their former activities, into the most prolific missionary movement of all time?

The resurrection would have the power to do just that, and provide the crowning proof that Jesus was indeed the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).

In the very place where Jesus died and was buried there was an explosion of growth in the Christian movement – which was centered on the claim that the grave was empty and that Jesus had truly risen. This explosion of growth happened mere weeks after the death and resurrection of Jesus in the place where He died.

The Gospel accounts were written, presented, received and acted upon as such by the society they lived in.

Finally, the presence of counter-productive features within the gospel accounts of the death and resurrection of Christ further demonstrates its reliable history.

For example, the gospels reveal Christ's humiliating trial, shameful death at the hands of his persecutors, Christ appears powerless to effect change, disciples are hiding in fear and appear cowardice, lack of strength to carry his own cross, those closest to Jesus betray and deny Him, the disciples are slow in understanding, the disciples do not believe, after rising from the dead Jesus appears first to women who have little legal standing and credibility in the eyes of their culture and law.

According to historians, these crucial features reveal that the writers of the New Testament were more interested in reporting accurate history than deceiving their readers by writing a flawless account of Christ and His followers. We have seen that we have good reason to believe the resurrection of Christ is a historical event. Attempts to explain the resurrection away fails to account for all the data and leave irreconcilable flaws in their argument.

We would expect great things in history to follow if Jesus rose from the dead.

When we look at history, we see the Roman empire converting to Christianity without the use of force, the rise of great literature, science, art, music, great universities, and many other areas that were started to glorify the risen Jesus.

This helped to transform the world to the modern era.

Conclusion: Historical test application

1. It has explanatory scope
2. It has great explanatory power
3. It is plausible
4. It is not written for a deceptive.
5. It is in accord with accepted beliefs
6. It far outstrips any of its rival theories in meeting conditions 1-5.

Sample Conversations For Pakistan Muslims

Christian: could you help me understand this verse: Sura 4-157-158 - That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah"; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, ...surety they killed him not.

Muslim: Jesus was a prophet and God protected him.

Christian: Did you know there is great historical evidence for the crucifixion and resurrection?

Muslim: It wasn't really him.

Christian: Why would God deceive people and even Jesus's mother?

Muslim: It must have been the authors who deceived people

Chrisitan: What kind of evidence would change your mind?

Sample Conversations For Pakistan Muslims

Christian: Did you know that the early letter of 1 Corinthians has a passage dated within a few years of Jesus death that says the most important thing was that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to people

Muslim: Paul corrupted Christianity

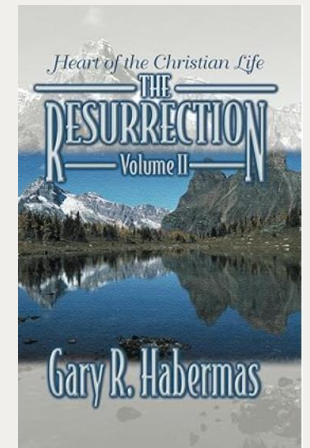
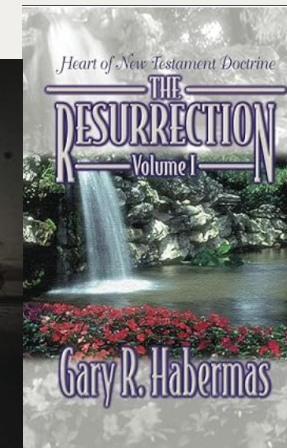
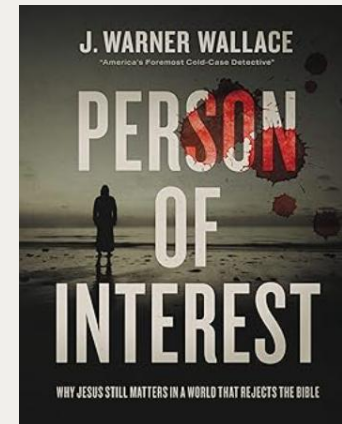
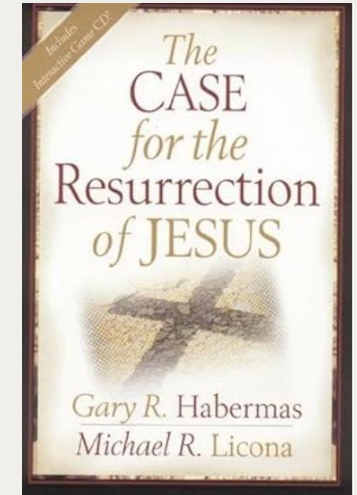
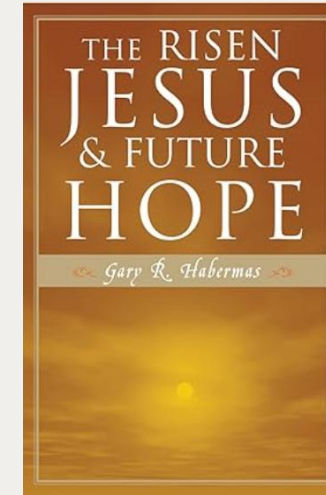
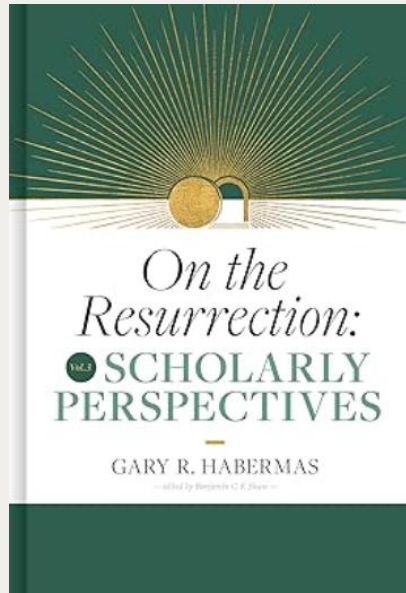
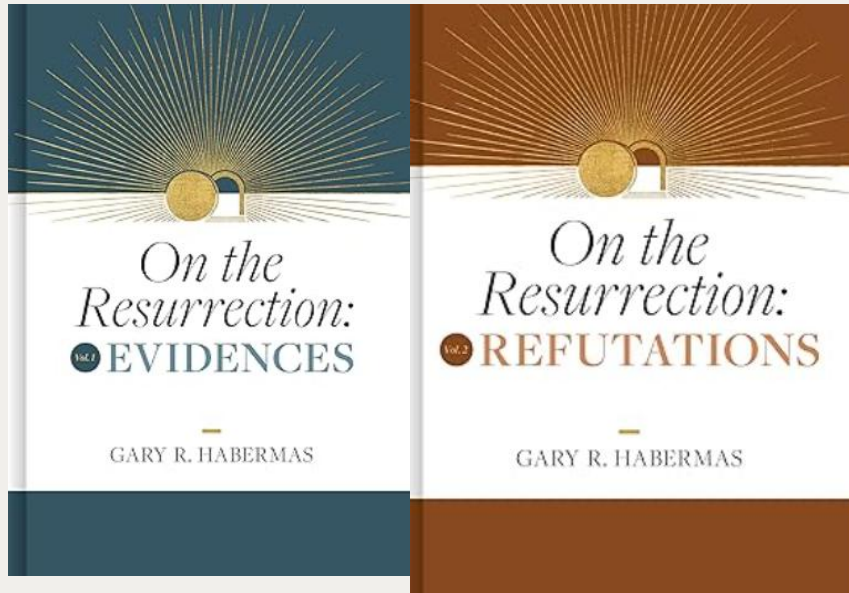
Christian: But this teaching was central and all the followers (disciples and others) all followed this teaching and Paul even said the faith is entirely based on the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19).

Muslim: I still think they made it up to deceive people

Christian: Why would God allow that kind of deception and for Jewish people and Romans to follow Jesus for 600 years?

What kind of evidence would change your mind?

Resources



You can look up these authors and find video resources on the internet/you tube. Watch some!

Questions?